

AARC COVER

Keeping Austin Wireless for Over 94 Years!

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs

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October 2014

Issue 10-2014

Big Bend 50 Looking for Operators

Operators – it is time for an update for the race in Big Bend Ranch State Park on January 18, 2015. The courses are laid out like a lollipop – start and finish are at the Warnock center in Lajitas. Participants go North from start to break point 1/9, where 30k runners will turn left and go around a loop that will bring them back to 1/9, and then they return on the same trail from 9 to finish at the Warnock Center.

50 mile (80K) runners will travel the same trail to break 1/9, but then continue Northwest to break 2/8, where they will take a big loop in a counterclockwise direction that takes them to break points 3, 4, and 5 (which is the Saucedo Ranch HQ and Northern race HQ). Then on to breaks 6 and 7, then back to break 2/8 (again), break 1/9 (again) and back to Lajitas/Warnock.

We have 60 registrants as of this writing and are hopeful that we will have as many as 300 runners by race day. There are many issues getting vehicles and support to all parts of the course. Mile 7 to 8.5 (BP 2/8) is considered ATV only – jeeps (very high clearance 4wd) “might” be able to make it. Ditto for the route from BP 5 (Saucedo) to BP 7 (Rincon).

Presently, there are plans for an aid station #3 at the top of the “lollipop” on the 30k that is accessible by foot or mountain bike only.

The other challenge is the greater distance and thus grater time that this event will run. At present, the plans are that this is an 18 hour event. 50 mile runners will start in the dark – at 5:30 am last I heard. The really

(Continued on page 7)

Periodic Events

| | | | |
|-------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sun | 7:00 p.m. | Travis ARES net | 147.36 MHz + (131.8) |
| Sun | 8:00 p.m. | Travis ARES Packet | 145.73 MHz - |
| Sun | 8:00 p.m. | Williamson ARES net | 146.64 MHz - (162.2) |
| Sun | 9:00 p.m. | ARO Swapnet | 146.94 MHz - |
| Sun | (After Swapnet) | Newsline | 146.94 MHz - |
| Mon. | 7:30 p.m. | STX ARES Net | 3.873 MHz |
| Tues. | 7:30 p.m. | Hays ARES net | 147.100 + |
| Tues. | 8:00 p.m. | Bastrop ARES Net | 443.750 + (114.8) |
| Wed | 11:30 a.m. | Ham Social Luncheon, Jim's | 146.94 MHz - |
| Thu | 9:00 p.m. | 2m SSB Net | 144.250 (USB) |
| Thu | 11:00 a.m. | Lunch, Pokey Joe's 183&Great Hills | 444.1 MHz+ |
| Fri | 8:00 p.m. | 6m SSB Net | 50.230(texasvhf.org/) |
| Sat | 7:00 - 8:30a.m. | Breakfast @ Waterloo Ice House | 444.1 MHz + |
| Sat | 9:00 a.m. | Chapter 67 QCWA QSO Net. | 3.920 MHz LSB |
| Daily | 6:30 p.m. | Central Texas Traffic Net | 147.14MHz+ |

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Ham Radio Exams Results

The following are the results of the ARRL VE Test Session held on September 6th at Bethany United Methodist Church:

23 Candidates were served by this Session and 19 of them either earned an upgrade or an initial license. 10 ARRL Volunteer Examiners participated.

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Kristopher E. Botz KG5DWT
Thomas C. Gossett Jr. KG5DWO
Joshua L. Prichard KG5DWQ

Spencer M. Cureton KG5DWU
Michael E. Lawson KG5DWP
Premo P. Viccinelli KG5DWW

Jimmy L. Davis KG5DWR
Crystal A. Morales KG5DWW
Luchies E. Warwick KG5DWS

General Class Licenses Processed

Lance L. Chambers KD5UWW
Ernest E. Gray KG5DRU
Sharon D. Sarles KF5RIH

Michael W. Davis Jr. KG5CIJ
Bryan R. Hunt KF5UFJ
Rodney H. Warner KG5DWW

Steven H. Faulkner KG5CIK
Robert J. Porter KG5DWY
Richard M. West Jr. KG5DWZ

Extra Class License Processed

Steven L. Roberts KC8ERT

Examiners Participating in this Test Session

| | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Joe Bryan K5BRY | Tony Davee KM5JH | Larry Gunter WB5BEK | Gene Hinkle K5PA | Sallie Howard AE5OM |
| Joe Makeever W5HS | Tom Nevue W2MN | Donald Sitze AF6VA | Carol Thiel N5TLY | Joe Thiel N5SMN |

Next ARRL VE Test Sessions

October 11th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204
November 1st - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS
Joe

9-20-14

The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our September 20th session:

Extra Class

Douglas Stanfield, KG5DLE

Merit Gainley, KG5CIB

General Class

Cynthia Sawtelle, WA3PUI

David Fletcher (NEW)

Technician Class (NEW)

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Cimarron Jenschke | Luke Bury |
| Kellen Wall | Chris Ham |
| Tex Jeffcoat | Thomas Hogan |
| George High | Revon Aunspaugh, Jr. |

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Joseph Broussard, Jr. | Shivani Patel |
| Sue Crouch | Eugene Crouch |
| Mike Cope | Jeffery Fincher |

Our administering volunteer examiners were:

Craig Bean, AC5KW
Bill Duke, AF5JD

Gary Popp, AE5JR
James Peisker, AF5NP

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at
2 PM on October 18th and November 15th in

Fleck Hall, room 118 on the campus of St. Edward's University.

All sessions are walk-in and the exam fee is \$14. For additional information regarding our amateur radio examination sessions,

please contact Craig, AC5KW at (512) 474-6443 or by e-mail to
hamradioexams@hotmail.com or visit our web page at

<http://texashams.org/w5yi-austin/>

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| President | Lori Schmidt | KM5MQ | 512-632-6789 | president@austinhams.org |
| Vice President | Rich Kerschner | KC9VFT | | vice-president@austinhams.org |
| Treasurer | Jay Hoffman | KA5OST | | treasurer@austinhams.org |
| Secretary | Jorge Harada | KF5IED | | secretary @ austinhams.org |
| Editor, AARCOVER | Mitch London | KD5HCV | 512-368-2566 | aarcover @ austinhams.org |
| Technical (Repeater Contact) | Stuart Rohre | K5KVH | 512-255-3932 | k5kvh @ arrl.net |
| ARRL Travis Co. Emer. Coord. | Mark Esslinger | | | ec @ austinhams.org |
| TC ARES PIO | Steven Polunsky | W5SMP | | tcares-pio@gmail.net |

Please contact a club officer, attend a meeting, mail us to join the organization, you can also join or renew online.
The Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (AARC) has annual membership dues of \$20.00 per person or \$30.00 per family. AARC maintains the following repeaters:

| FREQUENCY | AUTOPATCH | USE |
|-----------------------|-----------|---|
| 146.780 | No | |
| 146.880 | Yes | General |
| 146.940 107.2 PL Tone | No | Most popular, WX, Swapnet & Newslite |
| 224.800 | No | |
| 444.100 | No | |
| 440.650 +5 | No | 70cm D-Star Repeater [W5KA] |
| 146.480/+1.0 | No | 2m D-Star Repeater [W5KA C] |
| 1293.200/-20 | No | 23cm D-Star Repeater[W5KA A] |
| 1248.200 | No | 23cm D-Star DD (data, simp./reversible)[W5KA A] |

Persons using the repeaters are asked to join the club to help support these valuable resources. To use the autopatch, announce your call sign, press * and dial the phone number then release the PTT. When finished, press # to hang up the phone. Dial 911 (no * needed) for emergency services.

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Members and other readers are encouraged to submit material for publication. Call Mitch London, if mailed submissions are required. Electronic files are encouraged! Submissions may be edited for publication. **Deadline is the 22nd of the month.**

Material may be used in a later issue. Unless otherwise noted, permission is granted to reprint AARCOVER articles, provided you credit the author and the AARCOVER.

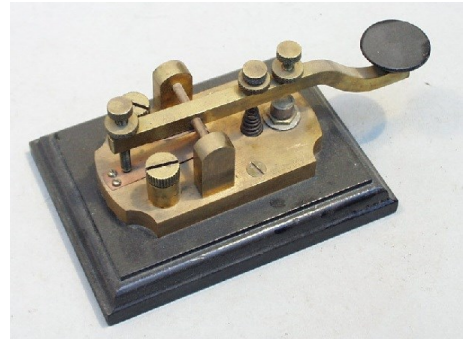
“N0UJR and His Friends” is reprinted with permission by Greg Trook, Trook Enterprises. Cartoons may not be reprinted without written permission. For information: <http://incolor.inebraska.com/n0ujr>.

“XYL” is printed with permission by Carolyn Canfield, KE5DTS . Cartoons may not be reprinted without written permission.

**For Changes in your ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER or CALL SIGN:
 See Jay Hoffman, KA5OST ka5ost @ arrl.net
 Jay handles all changes for membership information .**

Silent Keys

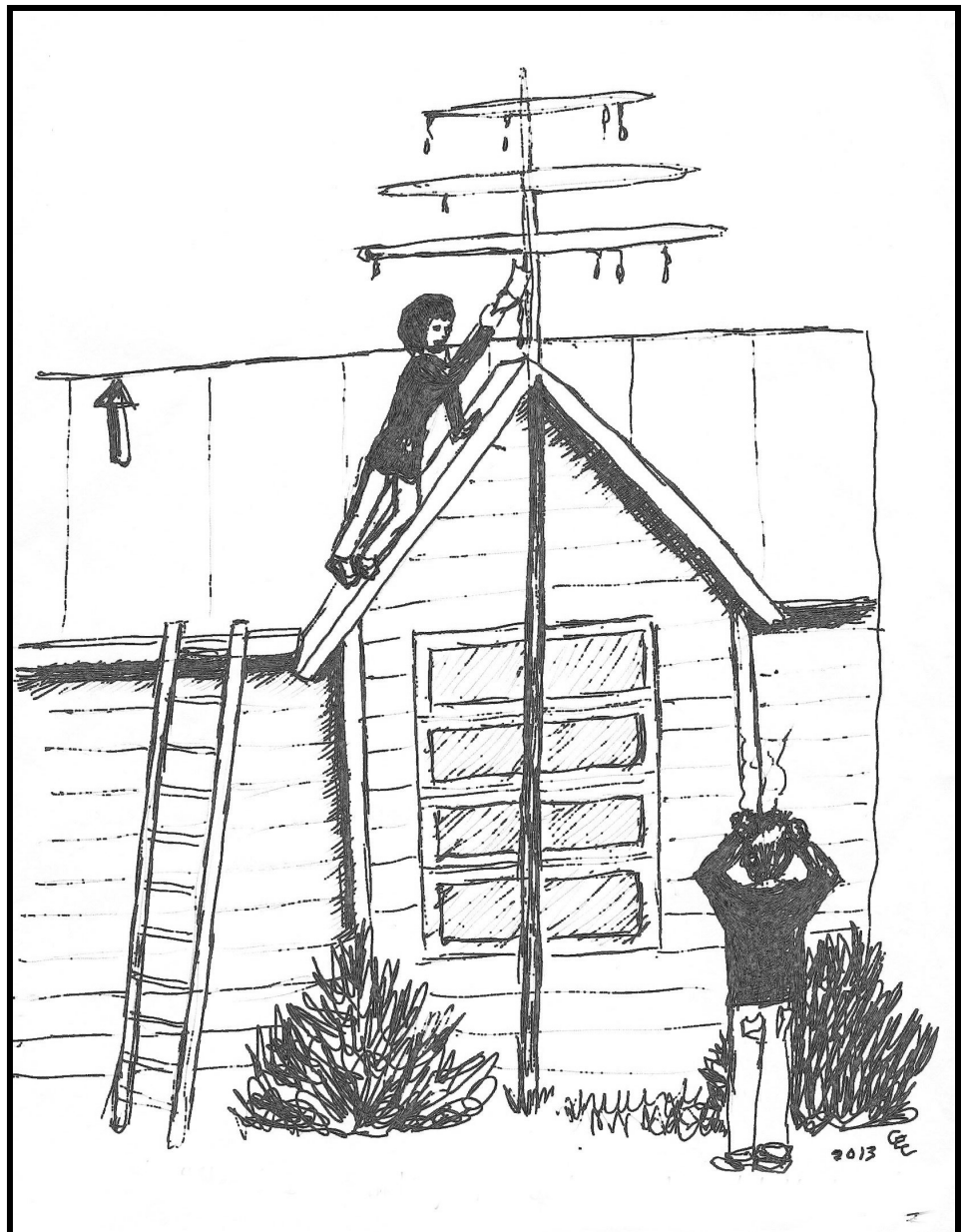
Carolyn Canfield, KE5DTS and cartoonist XYL, passed away Monday September 15th in the morning from a fast advancing case of ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). We noticed speech problems about two years ago but was first thought to be the result of long term use of certain bipolar drugs. Those were changed to the current medications and her condition continued to get worse, losing the ability to talk, swallow, walk without aids, to walk at all, all the time breathing became more and more difficult. She was under home hospice care for the last month.



Joe
N5HPC

XYL

By Carolyn Canfield, KE5DTS



“Yeah, I’m painting the antennas to match the house.”

AARC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Start: 1901 hrs

Officers Present: Lori Schmidt KM5MQ Jay Hoffman KA5OST Jorge Harada KF5IED

Total Attendance: 53

Birthdays: 6 Total - happy birthday and very special 90th to Uncle James N5OUJ!

Visitors: Cindy Ryan, N0CALL interested in amateur radio. W5OJY

No new hams

New Members: KG5DRZ Brandon Williams

Upgrades: None

Call Sign Change: None

Approval of August Minutes: Motion made, seconded, all pass

Past Events: None

Upcoming Events: Sept 5-7 33rd Annual ARRL Y TAPR digital comm conference www.tapro.org/dcc

Sep13 Tour De Cure: APRS & voice ops needed contact Jeff Schmidt N5MNV n5mnw@arrl.net. New hams encouraged to volunteer!

Oct 3-4: Belton Hamfest, Belton TX www.beltonhamexpo.org

Oct 11- Outlaw 100. Contact KD4HNX mylastname@yahoo.com

Oct 11 - TCARES Fall SET - Hurricane Related -see tcares.org for details

Oct 11-12 MS Valero Ride to The River, contact Charlie KC5NKK for further details charlesland@gmail.com

Announcements:

Dec 2nd - Xmas Party at Baby A's December 2nd, Fajita Buffet. 9505 Stonelake Blvd. Website should be up soon

General Announcements:

2015 Dues are due —T-Shirts/Polo shirts available, contact Lori KM5MQ

Officer Reports:

President, Lori KM5MQ - Nothing to report

Vice President, Rick KC9VFT - Nothing to report

Treasurer, Jay KA5OST - Nothing to report

Secretary, Jorge KF5IED - Nothing to report

Newsletter Editor: Submit articles to Mitch London KD5HCV

Technical: Stuart Rohre K5KVH. Report repeater issues through TCARES.org website

ARES - Mark Esslinger, W5MAE. Nothing to report

Broadband Hamnet/HSMM-MESH - NG5V Rick Kerchoff. Reporting about broadband hamnet and raised awareness of the program and its techniques. Rick has challenged the membership to get involved and gave the opportunity to earn a VOIP phone and controller by training and getting involved. For more info broadbandhamnet.org

AARC Ladies - None

Old Business: None

New Club Business: New meeting location at Baby A's 9505 Stonelake Blvd, Austin TX 78759 starting in January.

Ham Of The Month: Leonor White KF5YTZ. Nominate someone at austinhams.org

Door Prizes: Jump drive - KD5JX ARRL 100 Year Coin - Ronny KC5EES

Space Weather by Lew Thompson W5IFQ

10 meters is open - MUF is about 30mhz. Solar flux is about 125. 12 sunspots are currently present, 2 are active and capable of M-Flares. Solar X-ray flux is higher, expect more D-layer absorption during the day. Planetary K index is about 2-4. 2 Coronal holes are present at this time. Current solar conditions are quiet, except for a suspected proton event. Forecast: Earth GEOMAG field to be quiet. 20% prob for M-Class flare, 1% prob for X-Class flare. Check spaceweather.com for further details, good resources at txarmymars.org

For great pictures of auroras australis and borealis, see sealane.org

Meeting Adjourned: 1955 hrs

AARC Presentation: MARS dream station by Lew Thompson W5IFQ

AARC Christmas Party

The Austin Amateur Radio Club Christmas Party is on Dec 2, 2014
All are Hams WELCOME – You need not be a club member!

Dec 2, 2014 – 6:00 PM

Baby Acapulco's

9505-B Stonelake Blvd., Austin, Texas 78759



Live Entertainment from ***Ruby Dee and the Snakehandlers***

- Door Prizes
- HOTY (Ham of the Year) Award Presentation
- Door Prizes
- Great Food – Fajita Buffet
- Door Prizes
- QLF (left foot) Morse Code Contest
- Cash Bar
- GRAND PRIZE – TBA

\$20 per person includes: Dinner and dessert, non-alcoholic beverages, tax, tip, door prize ticket, Free DIY parking...

Space is limited – buy your tickets by 11/30/13 PLEASE

NOTE: Starting in January—Baby-A's will be our new meeting location for AARC meetings.

good runners will finish in the afternoon, but the slower ones will have until about midnight to finish. So breakpoints 1 and 2 would have to open before daylight, and those plus breakpoint 7 would be open after dark. And last, for the minute, is that with this much more isolated route, we have to track each runner so that we know when all have cleared an aid station, and we know where a runner was last seen if one disappears. Due to the low number of runners, we think that this can be done over the voice net.

We have 8 aid stations to staff, plus race HQ in Lajitas (Sauceda is Aid 5, and we will have to look at the planned operations there in more detail to see if extra operators are needed). For most of these aid stations, tent camping over night is the best way to operate. For 30k Aid 3, backpacking in will be necessary. Resupply will be minimal, so a crew needs to plan to be self sufficient for so long as their station is open. Two of these aid stations (plus southern Race HQ) will be serviced from the South. The rest will be accessed from and serviced from Sauceda.

At the moment we don't see an application for Broadband. If that crew is really charged up to try something, let me know what you are thinking.

Arrangements for volunteers – Sauceda was the Ranch owner's house and HQ are before the ranch became a state park. I'm told it is quite nice. There is a bunkhouse where volunteers who are staffing the North side can sleep (separate room for guys and gals). The race is picking up the cost of the bunk house on the North HQ. That will take care of Saturday and Sunday nights for volunteers at breaks 4-7. Note that to get to Sauceda you have about a 2 ½ hour drive from Lajitas. We don't have arrangements for those staying on the South side yet. I think that most of us will be staying at the Maverick campground, which is about \$20 a nite and is a mile from the Warnock center. Maverick has tent spots as well as RV hook ups. I expect we will continue to do meals for volunteers at our camp.

Big Bend 50 ham radio operators:

Progress continues in organizing the race. We have tentative approval from the park and are awaiting formal approval of a "vendor application". Arrangements with the Friends group there are still pending but don't appear to be a deal killer. There is a lot of enthusiasm from the park management as well as the businesses in Lajitas.

WE are still thinking about the best use of MESH (aka broadband hamnet) technology and where a closed circuit video might be useful. More bandwidth will be devoted to that after the vendor application is approved. Any suggestions or thoughts from that contingent are welcome.

Start and finish will be at the same place at the gate across the highway from the Warnock visitors center. The race course looks like a lopsided lollipop. The first few miles of the start trail is also the return trail. Then there is a loop where runners go to the West, up to the ranch house, and then back down on the East side. There is about 2500 feet elevation change from start to the highest point at the ranch house (which is about the mid point for the 50 mile runners).

50 mile runners will start in the dark, and the slower ones will finish in the dark. Present thoughts are there will be a 15 hour max – all have to be off course within 15 hours after start. 30 milers will start at sunup – 7:30. There may be a few slow ones who finish after dark, but this should largely be a daylight event for them.

We will have to check points that are not accessible by vehicle. We will need operators for these locations who can walk in with their gear and be largely self sufficient for 5-10 hours.

The first check point will be on the stem of the lollipop and will have long hours – be there by the 5:30 am start, and stay until the last runner clears. Lots of stamina needed here.

There will be chip timing. Radio operators will be asked to track runners, so if someone turns up missing we know where they were last seen. We are working on the process for doing that. We are expecting 100 to 200 runners, so if we start with a good list, I think it is doable over a voice net. I hope that we can get each check point a list of runners who picked up their packets, which should be 98% accurate, and handled drops and adds via radio. We probably won't ask all check points to radio in runner reports – still thinking about that. There is a really nice RV park and campground at Lajitas about a mile from the Warnock center. Walking distance for some =- short drive for lazy folks like me.

Stay happy this summer and I will keep you posted as more progress unfolds.

Charlie Land KC5NKK charliedland (at)gmail.com

Flux for Those Hard to Solder Older Cables

Forwarded by Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

RE: problems soldering oxidized wire like coax shield and connections that are bright nickel plated and so on.

I used to have the old type rosin flux used for soldering copper plumbing. It worked really well for difficult surfaces (used sparingly). But that's no longer available in favor of fluxes that will work with lead-free solders.

What I found that works really well is something called NoKorode Regular Paste Flux made by Rectorseal. It's designed for lead-free solder but seems to work well on just about any metal. On the label there is this note: "Non-aggressive paste flux. Works on copper, galvanized iron, lead, tinned steel and other metals."

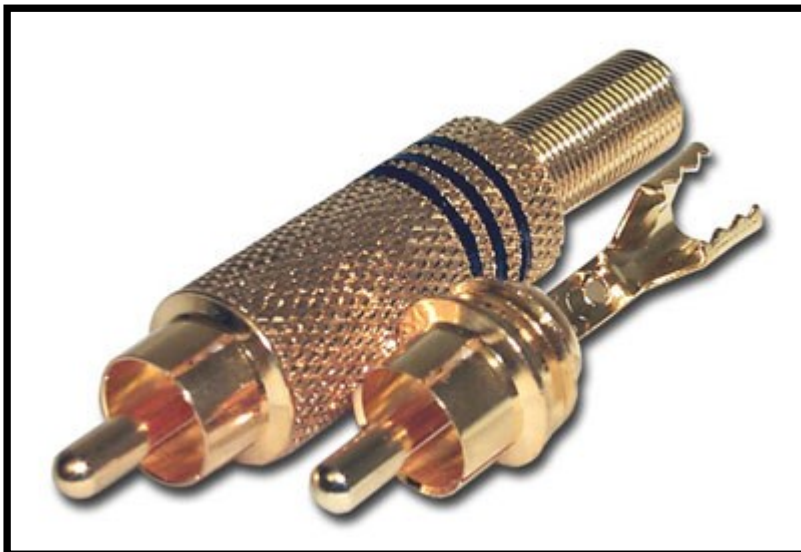
One particular problem I have is with the shield on RG-174, the silver plated stuff anyway. With regular solder, even with high heat the solder wouldn't stick well and often the insulation melted to the point of damage.

I had prepared some 174 with a short pigtail of twisted shield.

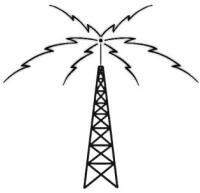
With the NoKorode, I applied a really thin coating on the shield. Then when I applied the solder it completely wicked into the shield almost instantly with complete coverage. As the name suggests, it does not seem to be corrosive in any way.

On some RCA connectors with what looks like nickel plating, I lightly dipped the end of my solder into the paste. Then tinned the area around the holes for the connections. That worked great too when I attached the wires; it was much easier to make a proper connection. No where near as much time was needed to heat the joint to get the solder to stick to the bright nickel surface.

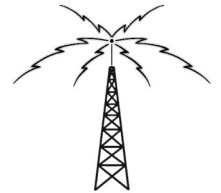
It doesn't take much to do the job with this flux and used sparingly should be fine for soldering other than electronics circuits. I'm going to try it with some of the bright metal finish on connectors like PL-259s. The 1.7oz container that I bought should last a very long time.



Chuck Carpenter, W5USJ



Over the WWaves...



A Collection of useful and interesting Websites sent in by our readers

(All links have been checked by editor as working at time of publication)

<http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=h73EYcysz8&feature=youtu.be>

Space Station Crew Uses HAM Radio to Call Earth

Sent by: Rick Herndon, K5FNI

<http://hackaday.com/2010/02/03/amplifier-built-inside-a-9v-battery/>

Amplifier built inside a 9 volt battery.

Sent by: Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

<http://www.wired.com/2010/02/gallery-lightning>

Lightning in slow motion!

Sent by: Dave Rivenburg, AD5OO

From The ARRL Contest Update for September 29, 2010

The Canadian Space Agency has just set up a camera in Yellowknife to broadcast the aurora borealis to the general public. It's part of a 5-year educational initiative to raise awareness of space weather and the sun's influence on Earth. Thanks, Jerry VE6CPP

<http://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/astronomy/auroramax/default.asp>

Doug K1DG reports and others confirm that running antenna wire over small-diameter pulleys (1" or so) causes even stranded wires to break and may accelerate corrosion (which leads to breaks). He reports higher reliability using large-diameter (3-4") plastic pulley wheels and homemade brackets.

The current and previous issues of QEX feature a two-part tutorial for the QuickSmith software that uses the Smith Chart to work out transmission line problems. (Thanks, Nick WA5BDU)

Steve KD1JV has some advice for parts/radios/junk hoarders not unlike himself, "Don't move! It is truly amazing at how much "stuff" we can accumulate and how difficult it is to part with much of it if you do have to move." I don't know any such individuals in ham radio, do you?

Pete Jordahl, K5GM

**AARC Meeting Info.
Waterloo Icehouse
8600 Burnet Rd. South of 183
(Come early and have dinner!)**

Business Meeting 7:00 pm

October 7—Meeting Topic TBA
and Solar WX summary by Lew W5IFQ

Officers Meeting 6:30 pm

October 21- Officers meetings are open to club members.

2014 Calendar of Events

Oct 3-4 **Belton Hamfest**
Admission \$5 (Includes a \$2 Raffle Ticket)
www.tarc.org/hamexpo/ www.beltonhamexpo.org/

Oct 11-12 **MS Valero Ride to the River**
Need SAG drivers, navigators, APRS ops & Rest Stop communicators. Charlie KC5NKK
charlesdland@gmail.com

Oct 11 **Outlaw 100**
Install 2m gear and Drive RR Parks & Rec trucks all day
Dallas KD4HNX mylastname@yahoo.com

Oct 11 **TCARES Fall SET-** Hurricane related
www.tcares.org

Oct 18 **MTC's Ham Radio Day** in Paris Texas
8:00AM til 2:00PM (tailgating Starts Earlier)
Prizes, Food, Fun, Tailgating, Music and more!
2707 Lamar Ave. Paris Texas 75460
<http://www.mtcradio.com/ham-radio-day/>

Oct 24-25 **Texoma Hamarama Family FunFest**
Ardmore Convention Center 2401 North Rockford Rd.
I-35 OK Exit 33, Halfway Between Dallas & Okla. City
Registration information & other info:
www.texomahamarama.org
texomahamarama@gmail.com
www.ardmoreconventioncenter.com

Oct 25 **South Central Texas Meet, Greet And Swap Fest** Saturday October 25, 2014 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM.
Niemiets Park, 608 WFM-78, Cibolo, TX 78108
Admission, Bar-B-Que Plate, Tables for the swap: ALL FREE!
Accepting OPTIONAL donations to help with costs
donpritchett81@yahoo.com www.bigradiotx.com

2014 Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC— **October 11th * November 1st** 9a.m.
at Bethany United Methodist Church. Contact Joe Makeever, W5HS (345-0800) or Joe Thiel, N5SMN (832-0450) for info. \$15 fee.

W5YI VEC- **October 18th & November 15th**
2p.m. in room 207, Fleck Hall, St. Edwards Univ.
Contact Craig Bean, AC5KW@arrl.net,
(474-6443) for more info.
<http://texashams.org/w5yi-austin/>

Upcoming Meetings...

| Oct | Nov | Austin Meetings/Happenings | Time | Address |
|-----|------|--|-----------|-------------------------|
| 7 | 4 | AARC Meeting Waterloo Ice House | 7:00 p.m. | 8600 Burnet Rd. |
| 19 | No | QCWA Tres Amigos | 1:30 p.m. | 7535 U.S. 290 |
| 22 | 26\$ | Digital Wednesday at CATRAC | 7:00 p.m. | 4100 Ed Bluestein Blvd. |
| 27 | 24\$ | Travis Co. REACT Jim's 183 & Burnet | 7:30 p.m. | 9091 Research Blvd. |
| 28% | 25\$ | Travis County A.R.E.S. Pickle Research Ctr | 7:00 p.m. | 10000 Burnet Rd. |
| 23 | 27\$ | CERT Meeting, CTECC | 6:30 p.m. | 5010 Old Manor Rd. |
| 28 | 25\$ | CTDXCC Meeting Old Quarry Library | 6:30 p.m. | 7051 Village Ctr Dr. |

% New Meeting Location for TCARES

QCWA Now meets quarterly visit <http://www.qcwa.org/chapter067.htm> for info

\$ Dates may change due to proximity to Thanksgiving